

Application No. 10/031,798  
Attorney Docket No. PG3681USW

### REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-82 are presented for examination. Applicants request that the amendments to the claims made in the preliminary amendment mailed on 10-26-2001 be withdrawn, as the claim numbering used in the preliminary amendment did not mirror that used in the PCT application claims. To avoid confusion, the claim numbering used in this Amendment B accurately reflects the correct claim numbering (incorporating those amendments made during the international phase of the PCT).

In this Amendment B, Claim 1 has been further amended to specify that "both the cover sheet and the base sheet comprise at least one layer of metal foil and said join comprises a metal-to-metal join between said metal foil layers." The method is directed toward forming a blister pack, in which laser energy is employed to form a metal-to-metal join between metal foil layers of a base sheet and a cover sheet of the blister pack. The join is hermetically sealed.

Basis for the amendment of claim 1 is found in the specification, particularly at page 2, lines 13-15; page 10, lines 32 to page 11, line 6 and in Figure 5. No new matter is added hereby.

The Fishman reference does not disclose these features of claim 1. As the reference does not disclose each and every limitation of the claims, the claimed subject matter is novel. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims as anticipated on Fishman is requested.

Claim 1 was also amended to clarify that the laser energy originates from "a laser", thus clear antecedent basis is provide for the language of claims 5-7, 15 and 16. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 112 is appropriate.

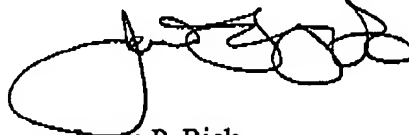
Claims 5, 6, 7, 10-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81 and 82 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and reduce fees.

Application No. 10/031,798  
Attorney Docket No. PG3681USW

The claims are asserted to be in a condition for allowance. Applicant requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any matters exist that preclude issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the examiner is requested to contact the applicant's representative at the number indicated below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge any fees or credit any overpayment, particularly including any fees required under 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and/or 1.17, and any necessary extension of time fees, to deposit Account No. 07-1392.

Respectfully submitted,



James P. Riek

Dated: 13 Feb. 2004

Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 39,009  
Tel. (919) 483-8022  
Fax. (919) 483-7988